

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the text beginning on page 1, line 19 to page 2, line 2 of the specification with the following paragraphs:

Full-depth and half-depth crates are not designed to nest with one another and do not significantly stack, and thus do not store efficiently when empty. They typically have vertical exterior surfaces from top to bottom, and minimal wall stock, for providing a minimal overall length and width to allow for as much bottle density and as little crate structure as possible, in order to provide for pallet optimization, with little or no pallet overhang. The bottom of these crates extends downwardly and inwardly offset from the sidewalls defining a crate footprint. The stacking feature of such crates is typically limited to this bottom footprint, which is received within the rim of a like container to achieve more stable stack. One design is shown in U.S. Design Pat. No. D 361,663.

These crates are designed to balance many factors, including the need for structure and strength against having a footprint appropriately sized to provide pallet optimization. However, to achieve a significant degree of nesting with such crates, beyond that described above, would require a larger footprint, a more significant sidewall structure and more taper in the walls, and therefore detracts from the aforementioned pallet optimization.